

Westfield Primary Head's Newsletter— February 2025



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A warm welcome to you all to our February newsletter. It can seem that January is a particularly long month to get through, however, at Westfield we have been enjoying so many fun and engaging activities it has flown by! Some of the curriculum enrichment activities have included:

- ◆ A whole school writing week, based around picture books and on the theme of friendship and treating each other well (the children have created wonderful displays of their writing and artwork)
- ◆ Year 6 STEM day with practical workshops
- ◆ Year 3, Robins class, trip to Pizza Express
- ◆ Year 3 restarted their visits (after the Christmas break) to our friends at Mayford Grange
- ◆ Class assemblies from Woodpeckers, Beetles and Ladybirds
- ◆ Dog safety workshops for Years 3 and 4
- ◆ Year 2 football tournament at Sythwood
- ◆ Year 6 Grecian dress up and activity day

January has certainly been a busy month! Year 6 also had their 'mock SATs week' this week. This is hugely beneficial in giving them a taster of the real week which will be coming up in May, and reminding them the tests are nothing to be worried about. The children particularly enjoyed the breakfast they had in school each day prior to the day's test!

Our PRIDE values are an integral part of our school ethos and this half term we have focused on the PRIDE value of 'Respect'. We have encouraged the children to embrace respect not only for themselves but also for others. The aim is to instil in them the importance of treating everyone with fairness, dignity and kindness. After half term, we will be highlighting the PRIDE value of Independence.

Looking ahead to next week, we will be taking part in the "Children's Mental Health" themed week. The week will begin on Monday 3rd February and will start with a dress-up day under the theme "Express Yourself". This fits well with the overall theme of the week, which is: Know Yourself, Grow Yourself. More information on our themed week can be found on Page 2 of this newsletter.

Please note that Parents' evenings are taking place the week before half term (Tuesday 11th and Thursday 13th February). This is an important opportunity for you to meet with your child's teachers and discuss their progress. Please do look out for the information on booking an appointment time.



We wish you all a very restful and happy half term when it arrives in a couple of weeks.



Well-being and Mental Health at Westfield.

This February we are once again taking part in Place2Be's annual Children's Mental Health themed week. The theme this year is, Know Yourself, Grow Yourself, with the aim being to encourage children, young people and adults to embrace self-awareness and explore what it means to them. This in turn will help them grow and develop resilience to cope with life's ups and downs.

There will be lots of fun and engaging activities for the children to do across the week, including a collaborative art activity and our 'family adult afternoons', which we informed you about in a letter earlier this term.

The week will start off with a dress up/mufti day on Monday 3rd February. The theme for this is: Express Yourself. On this day the children can come to school in their own clothes. The idea is that they can express themselves through their clothing, for example, they may be happiest in their comfiest clothes, or their very best clothes, the sports clothes of their favourite team, a favourite dressing up outfit (perhaps a superhero, fairy, Disney or Marvel character etc) or a job they may hope to have in the future. The only thing we ask is that all clothes and footwear are suitable for an active day in school, and that no jewellery (except plain ear studs for those with pierced ears) is worn (as our uniform policy states).

We are also having a 'wear your scarf to school day' on the Friday (7th February). This is another optional activity to further raise the profile of the week and prompt further discussions and learning around wellbeing and mental health.



Below is a reminder of the 'family adult' afternoons timetable, which shows which year group/s are hosting on each afternoon. As previously communicated, due to health and safety considerations, we can only accommodate one adult per child and no siblings/children can be brought along. These should be fun afternoons and a time to work and learn alongside your child.

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2pm to 3pm	Year 6 & Year R	Year 4	Year 2	Year 3	Year 5 & Year 1

We hoped you enjoyed January's Action for Happiness calendar (Happier January). February's calendar has the theme: Friendly February and can be found [HERE](#).

Online Safety

What Parents Need to Know about SQUID GAME

AGE RESTRICTION
15+
Suitable only for 15 years and over.

With themes of horror and violence, it's important for parents and carers to understand the potential risks posed to young audiences by the nine-episode Netflix-exclusive TV show, Squid Game. The series, rated 15+, is about a world where contestants who are deeply in debt play children's games in order to win cash prizes. The losers, however, are violently killed. The show's popularity has meant it has spread in various guises across online platforms, with a heightened risk of children and young people potentially viewing unsuitable content. That's why we've created this guide to help parents and carers understand exactly what Squid Game is all about.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
Some might argue that Squid Game contains content that might not even be suitable for older teens, let alone young children. Characters are brutally tortured and killed through stabbings or getting shot as a result of rules developed and enforced by a masked game master. The show also features sexual content and threats of sexual violence, as well as a strong theme of gambling that runs throughout the whole show.

APPEAL TO YOUNG PEOPLE
Whilst the content is very much adult-themed, some features of the show seem to appeal to young children at face-value. The name "Squid Game" may be interpreted as a programme aimed at children rather than adults. The content itself, such as the bright and childish aesthetics, may also appeal to young children, particularly as there's a focus on playground games to go with it.

SIMILAR CONTENT SUGGESTIONS
When using social media and streaming sites, content is recommended based on what is the user has consumed i.e. what they have watched or searched for. Therefore, there is a greater chance of your child being exposed to similar violent or horror-themed content on social media after watching a show like Squid Game.

VIRAL SPIN-OFFS
As well as Netflix, Squid Game has grown in notoriety and prevalence on other platforms, like TikTok and YouTube, with clips of the show going viral. On YouTube Kids, a number of successful channels have taken advantage of the Squid Game trend, creating content such as "How to Draw Squid Game Characters" videos. Its popularity has also led to the creation of app games that put the player in the role of a contestant who is killed if they lose a game.

SCENE RE-ENACTMENTS
Squid Game's pervasive presence on social media has encouraged many content creators to re-enact scenes from the show, which has led to reports of children wanting to also imitate those scenes displayed on social media at home and in school. Much of this content stems from the "Red Light, Green Light" game from the first episode, where contestants attempt to make it past a giant animatronic girl before she shoots them.

Advice for Parents & Carers

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS
Netflix has easily accessible built-in parental controls that allow you to set up a profile for your child with a specific age rating, block them from watching certain shows and even lock their account so it can't be accessed by anyone else. Netflix also allows you to access your child's viewing history to make sure they're not watching anything inappropriate for their age.

MONITOR ONLINE ACTIVITY
Squid Game has become a social media craze and it's possible your child will see some content related to the show on various platforms. Therefore, it's important to be aware of which websites your child has visited on their smartphone, tablet or laptop, and to also keep an eye out for which accounts they are following on social media platforms, such as Instagram and TikTok.

MONITOR BEHAVIOUR
Due to the viral nature of the show, even if your child has not seen Squid Game, it's important to keep an eye on their behaviour. There have been reports from schools of children "playing Squid Game" in the playground and acting aggressively towards the losers as a way to replicate the consequences of losing in the TV show. Viewing content that makes your child feel uncomfortable could also cause them to feel distressed or distracted, so it's important you can easily spot the signs.

CHECK AGE RATINGS
Age ratings on TV shows and films are a way to gauge what is suitable for audiences of different ages. If you are unsure about the content your child is watching, check the age rating to see if the TV show or film is deemed suitable for their age group. If not, try watching the show yourself or talking to other parents who have seen it before to get a better understanding of why it's been rated a certain way.

HAVE OPEN CONVERSATIONS
Making sure your child is comfortable telling you about what they see online can go a long way to ensuring you are kept in the loop about their online use. Showing an interest in what your child is doing online gives you the opportunity to discuss what is and is not appropriate for their age group, and how they might recognise their own feelings towards content they see.

WATCH THE SHOW
If you're trying to figure out whether you should let your child watch Squid Game, it might be a good idea to watch the show yourself first. Doing so will allow you to get a better understanding of the show's content and themes, as well as help you decide if this is something you'd feel comfortable with your child being exposed to.

<https://nationalcollege.com/news/squid-game-what-parents-need-to-know>

Chartwells meal recipes

Some parents have requested recipes from Chartwells for some of their meals.

You can find these on the school website at the link below:

<https://www.westfield.surrey.sch.uk/page/?title=School+Meals+%2D+Chartwells&pid=42>



Westfield Heroes

It's nice to be nice and if a member of Westfield staff made you smile then let us know and we will pass on your comments to them. It can be for absolutely anyone in school and for any reason - we'd just like to know! Maybe someone in the office was super helpful, someone made your child smile, your class teacher or LSA went the extra mile, or you were helped by a Well-Being Assistant or Nurture Lead, SENCO or Inclusion Leader, or you just want to say thankyou. Please click on the link and fill out the form it will take you to, then just add in the information about the Westfield Hero.

[Click](#) for the Westfield Hero form.



School Uniform Reminder (including mufti days on Fridays)

Please find below the uniform expectations at Westfield Primary, as set out in our school brochure on our website.

School Uniform

We take PRIDE in how our children look and expect all the children to wear the full School Uniform and kit for PE. This helps maintain a cohesive school community. Please check with the school before purchasing new items or changing hairstyles if you are in any doubt about the uniform code, as the school's decision is final. As part of our Well-being approach, every Friday children will be permitted to wear mufti (home clothes). These clothes must be clean and suitable for learning, including physical activity. On these days there is still no additional jewellery. A single stud earring in each year and a watch only is permissible. Clothes and footwear must be appropriate to being able to run around on the playground and respectable i.e. no midriff showing, no ripped clothing/ no ripped jeans, no heels/ slip on shoes/ flip flops. The school reserves the right to make judgement on the appropriateness of mufti clothes.

Uniform

- White polo shirt for all children. This has been updated from Summer 2024 and therefore children in the Juniors may continue to wear white shirts or blouses, with optional ties for their remaining time at Westfield.
- Grey trousers or school shorts (no leggings), skirt, skorts (shorts that look like a skirt) or pinafore, that must be knee length or longer
- Burgundy logo or plain jumper/cardigan.
- Plain white, grey or black socks that are below the knee/tights.
- Sensible, black enclosed waterproof shoes (Velcro fasteners are ideal for younger children). These must be plain black and flat, but can be plain black trainers or sturdy black shoes. No open-toed shoes, knee high boots (ankle boots are permissible) or slip on shoes are allowed. All shoes must have a back to them.

Optional Summer Uniform

May be worn from the start of the summer term until autumn half term (end of October)

- Blue & white checked dresses may be worn, that must be knee length or longer. Blue and white checked skorts jump suit may also be worn.

PE & Swimming

On PE days children should come into school in their PE kit.

- Burgundy T-shirt
- Navy/black shorts. Plimsolls. Trainers for games.
- Socks not tights. Drawstring bag for spare kit if required due to weather.
- Plain dark (black or blue) tracksuits (optional).
- An appropriately sized rucksack for swimming gear, to include swimwear- full swim suit for girls and a towel.
- Optional fleece jumper (burgundy, blue or black).

Children who are chosen to represent the school at sporting events (e.g. football match) are provided with a school kit where appropriate.

Application for leave of absence/exceptional circumstances

As parents, you have a legal responsibility to ensure your child's attendance at school. Holidays should be taken during the school holiday period. During the academic year pupils are at school for 190 days and at home for 175 days. Students are expected to attend 100% of the time.

Please fill in a request of absence form (available from the office or online) if you want to ask the Headteacher to authorise a *leave of absence* during term time. You must ask well in advance and you are strongly advised to request leave of absence before you confirm your arrangements.

New legislations (Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013) means that if an application is not *"made in advance to the Head teacher by a parent with whom the pupil normally resides, and the Head teacher does not consider that leave of absence should be granted due to the "exceptional circumstances" relating to that application"*, then it will not be authorised.

If you take your child out of school without the approval of the school, you may be liable to receive a Penalty Notice from Surrey County Council for failing to ensure your child's regular school attendance.

Unauthorised absence in school time will not be authorised. *Guidelines from the local authority are that they may issue a Penalty Notice (with a fine) to each parent, when students are taken out of school during term for 5 days or more and if this absence is recorded as unauthorised by the school. Please note it includes cumulative absence over a 10 week period (several unauthorised absences that total 5 days within a 10 week period).*

The amount payable on issue of a Penalty Notice is £80 per parent per child if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice, rising to £160 if paid within 28 days. If the penalty notice remains unpaid after 28 days, the Local Authority will consider a prosecution in the Magistrates Court. Please note that penalty notices are issued per parent/carer per child so a family of two parents and two children will receive 4 penalty notices. **If the absence exceeds 20 days, your child's name may be removed from the school roll and you will have to reapply for a place on your return.**

The Headteacher will consider the reasons for the request carefully, taking into account the effect on the continuity of your child's learning and your child's overall attendance rate, and then may authorise up to five days of absence. The Headteacher will notify you, via the office, of the decision within five working days of receiving your written application.

Leave of absence, for exceptional circumstances, will not be granted if additional leave is taken as holiday either side of this time. Proof of flights or other documentation supporting the request must be produced if asked for.

Monthly Attendance Letters

Monthly letters are automatically produced and sent to all parents whose children are late 4 times or more in a month. Monthly letters will also be produced to all parents whose child has an attendance below 90%, and for those between 91-94%. These letters will continue to be sent until the attendance is above 94%. Please be aware that this may take quite a few months.

Surrey Attendance Advice Officer (previously Education Welfare Officer)

The Surrey Attendance Advice Officer monitors the attendance of all children on a regular basis. They may contact parents if children are consistently late or there are concerns about attendance.

SCHOOL PENALTY NOTICE FINES FROM AUGUST 2024



The following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued after 19th August 2024

1

FIRST OFFENCE

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave or irregular attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days. Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

2

SECOND OFFENCE (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave or irregular attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child to be paid within 28 days. No reduced rate will be offered.

3

THIRD OFFENCE AND ANY FURTHER OFFENCES (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

The third time an offence is committed for term time leave or irregular attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates'; fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child. Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on a Parents future DBS certificate, due to failure to safeguard a child's education.

10 SESSIONS (5 DAYS) OF UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE IN A 10 WEEK PERIOD

Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period.



UK Health
Security
Agency



Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.

NHS career opportunities

NHS
England
South East



VIRTUAL NHS ENGLAND SOUTH EAST ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS INSIGHT EVENT

Are you a student, parent/carer or teacher,
or considering a change in career?

Join this event to hear about all the roles
within allied health professions, how to become
a podiatrist and the career and educational
pathways available, including apprenticeships

There will be a diverse panel of speakers,
talking about different settings a podiatrist
could work in, sharing their insights and
experiences



**LIVE Q&A
SESSION**

 **SCAN ME**

MS Teams Meeting
Scan the QR code to join
Or join by clicking [here](#)
Meeting ID: 315 626 501 567
Passcode: GD6eg3vs



MONDAY 10 FEBRUARY
5.00PM – 6.00PM

NHS
England
South East



VIRTUAL NHS ENGLAND SOUTH EAST MIDWIFERY INSIGHT EVENT

Are you a student, parent/carer
or teacher, or considering a
change in career?

Join this event to hear from midwifery
colleagues to learn how to become
a midwife, the role of a midwife
and the different routes to midwifery

There will be a diverse panel of speakers,
talking about different settings a midwife could
work in, sharing their insights and experiences



**LIVE Q&A
SESSION**

 **SCAN ME**

MS Teams Meeting
Scan the QR code to join
Or join by clicking [here](#)
Meeting ID: 388 676 067 682
Passcode: nN6so2Ta



THURSDAY 6 FEBRUARY
5.00PM – 6.00PM



For All
The
Family

1st Saturday
of the month
1.30pm–3.30pm

Museum Makes

Join us for a fun family craft activity where imagination meets history in a hands-on experience for all ages!



FREE
DROP IN
SESSION



Chertsey Museum, 33 Windsor Street, Chertsey, KT16 8AT
chertseymuseum.org



back in 2025
by popular demand!

Kids Saturday



Sewing Circle

From buttons to back
stitch, blanket stitch to
daisy stitch - come along
and learn how to sew.

Learn a new stitch each
month and take home your
handsewn creations.

Suitable for ages 7 to 12
£3.00 per session
Advanced booking required

11.15am
to
12.30pm

1 February
1 March
3 May*

* no April meeting

Book online at <https://chertsey-museum.arttickets.org.uk/>

Chertsey Museum 33 Windsor Street Chertsey KT16 8AT
Tel 01932 565 764

WESTFIELD PRIMARY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Whilst we endeavour to keep the school dates fixed, we sometimes need to change these and ask for your support with amendments.

Monday	3rd February	9am book look year 4
Tuesday	4th February	9am book look for year 3
Thursday	6th February	2.30pm Year 5 book look
Friday	7th February	8.55am-9.15am Year 2 book look
Friday	7th February	10am joint Year R assembly
Tuesday	11th February	3.20pm-5.30pm Parents evening in school
Thursday	13th February	3.20pm-5.30pm Parents evening in school
Friday	14th February	10am Hawks class assembly, followed by a book look
Mon-Friday	17th-21st February	Half term
Friday	28th February	10am Falcons class assembly, followed by a book look
Thursday	6th March	World Book day— dress up day
Friday	7th March	10am Penguins class assembly
Mon-Friday	10th-14th March	Year 6 Bikeability Level 2
Friday	14th March	10am Puffins class assembly
Monday	17th March	Class and Year 6 leavers photos
Friday	21st March	10am Robins class assembly
Wednesday	2nd April	10am KS2 Easter Assembly
Wednesday	2nd April	11am KS1 Easter Assembly
Thursday	3rd April	Children finish at 1.20pm for Easter holidays
Tuesday	22nd April	Children return for the Summer term